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Second Conference on Obesity (PACO) to be held on Aruba in June

The second PACO (Pan American Conference on Obesity) conference on obesity is scheduled to take place on Aruba during the 11th to the 16th of June. Last year 22 countries participated. For this year already 20 countries have confirmed their participation. The conference will have various lectures, workshops and individual meetings. Last year we can recall that all the countries signed the "Aruba Call to Action" document which was presented to the United Nations as "Methods of the Millen-



Minister of Health Richard Visser

nium."

Last year these methods covered the entire world. This time the focus again is on child obesity.

The United Nations, however, sees the obesity dilemma as a problem of each country's development. All heads of states have begun making changes in their management philosophy.

The effect of the economy on an 'over weight' country, is tied to certain development challenges, health challenges, labor production and educational. During the speeches, they intend on reviewing the challenges in the hopes that each country will know how to deal with the challenges in the form of preventing this dilemma.

Reportedly, the Aruba Minister of Public Health will present the "IBISA" (Instituto pa Biba Salud y Activo- The Institute for living healthy and active). This is a department of the government which will be working on the prevention of chronic deceases. IDEFRE and a few other departments will fall under the umbrella of IBISA working together on promoting physical activity and prevention in the area of health.

The government has begun to work on various projects, such as "Scol Saludabel" (healthy schools), "Ciclovia," television and radio programs, programs with our hotels, food labeling, etc. Soon IBISA will be inaugurating its new "bus di salud" (health bus). This is a bus containing a clinic where body scans, blood samples, and screens for obesity can be done, and will travel throughout the island.

PACO apparently will be sending their top doctors and health experts to Aruba and our own local doctors and experts will be introduced to the newest equipment and methods being used to treat obesity and other chronic deceases.

Continue on pg 2

Obama honors 'giant' Dylan with top US honor

WASHINGTON (AFP) - Fan-in-chief Barack Obama invested legendary singer songwriter Bob Dylan Tuesday with America's highest civilian honor, praising the gritty folk legend's never ending quest for truth.

Dylan joined other honorees including former secretary of state Madeleine Albright, John Glenn, the first American to orbit Earth and novelist Toni Morrison to be awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

"By the time he was 23, Bob's voice, with its weight, its unique gravelly power, was redefining not just what music sounded like, but the message it carried and how it made people feel," Obama said.

"Today, everybody from Bruce Springsteen to U2 owes Bob a debt of gratitude. "There is not a bigger giant in the history of American music. All these years later, he's still chasing that sound, still searching for a little bit of truth, and I have to say that I am a really big fan."

Continue on pg 5

West expels Syrian envoys over Houla massacre

WASHINGTON (AFP) - Western powers ordered Tuesday the expulsion of Syrian diplomats as they blamed the Houla massacre squarely on President Bashar al-Assad's regime and warned him that time was running out.

Russia, which has twice vetoed UN action against Syria, was pressed to change its approach to its key Middle Eastern ally with the United States calling for the atrocity to serve as a "turning point in Russian thinking."

The coordinated envoy expulsions followed mounting international outrage over the massacre on Friday in the central town of Houla, in which at least 108 people, including 49 children, were killed, according to UN figures.

Australia, Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Spain and the United States acted in concert, stepping up the pressure on Assad's regime after the killings, many of them summary executions blamed on pro-government militia.

"We hold the Syrian government responsible for this

slaughter of innocent lives," US State Department spokeswoman Victoria Nuland said, informing charge d'affaires Zuheir Jabbour that he had 72 hours to leave the country.

Jabbour has been the highest-ranking Syrian official in Washington since the departure of the ambassador, Imad Mustapha, last October.

Nuland said the massacre was "the most unambiguous indictment to date" of Syria's flagrant UN Security Council violations and urged all countries to "condemn the actions of the Assad regime through similar action."

Bulgaria, the Netherlands and Switzerland followed suit, while Belgium declared its Syria ambassador "persona non grata" but said he could not be expelled as he was also EU envoy and there was no unanimity in the 27-nation bloc.

British Foreign Secretary William Hague said the expulsion of the top Syrian diplomat in London, charge d'affaires Ghassan Dalla, and two other envoys would send out a "stark message."

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Second Conference on Obesity (PACO) to be held on Aruba in June

Continued from pg 1



Pictured the 'Bus Di Salud'

Our focus will be on prevention, and in that context Aruba will benefit from the top experts from organizations like the World Health Organization, the Pan American Health Organization,

fering lectures and workshops on various interesting topics.

Two special courses of study will be offered during the week along with 6 different workshops. These will be



CEPAL, FAO, PAHEF, and Caricom, a total of 10 US Universities that will be in attendance. Also expected are 25 science doctors and more than 20 countries will be in attendance at the upcoming conference. These will be of-

specifically for our own local experts. The sessions will allow the participation of no more than 200 persons.

Registration can be made immediately by email on the PACO website at: www.paco.aw.

Sister Juliet celebrates 50th anniversary as a Nun



Robert Reeberg and Lila Richardson presenting the composition made especially for Sister Juliet

Coffee House was the venue for a lovely celebration of the 50th anniversary of Sister Juliet's service as a Nun. A group of friends and visitors gathered to ask God's blessing on Sister Juliet and for His strength to help her continue serving the Lord and our community for many more years.

Sister Juliet was pleasantly surprised by the presence of Robert Reeberg and Lila Richardson and by their unique gift. They dedicated a song to Sister Juliet that Robert Reeberg composed especially for Sister Juliet.

Teachers from the different schools who work with Sister Juliet were in attendance for the festive occasion. Teacher Pardo of Imelda Kleuterschool was there as well as teacher Gardio of Maria College, teacher Janga of St. Michael School, teacher Lilith Rasmijn of Sagrado Curazon, teacher Mariksa Lacle and teacher Stella Tromp of Rosario College. Several others from the Department of Education was also in attendance to celebrate with Sister Juliet.

Mr. Erick Rincones entertained the guests with his guitar and songs dedicated to the Lord with everyone joining in and singing along. "Let God give us the strength to carry on. For us in the field of teaching to be an example and to allow God



Sister Juliet



to continue doing His work through us," were some of the expressions to Sister Juliet.

The group savored delicious coffee from Smit and Dorlas and specially prepared delicious snacks in the beautifully decorated Coffee Shop in honor of Sister Juliet.



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- Tuesday **Daily Raffle \$ 500 - BlackJack Tournament**
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Educational video of Aruba produced by biggest Tour Operator in Holland



Petra Kok and Anouk Oosthout, sales manager of Tui Nederland and Editor of Reisrevue were recently in Aruba to record an educational video of Aruba. The purpose of the video will be to educate, and to win over more travel agents working for Tui Nederland.

The video will be shown in all Tui Nederland sales offices with the cooperation of ATA Europe and Travel Magazine. Travel Magazine is the largest employment magazine in Holland.

Tui Nederland operates under various umbrellas, such as Holland International and Arke. Tui Nederland has its own airline – Arkefly. This

Summer Arkefly will have a total of 4 weekly flights to Aruba. They offer their customers a large variety of hotels.

Among these hotels is the Divi Resorts where Petra and Anouk stayed during their visit to Aruba.

Aruba is an important destination for Tui Nederland and has the largest portion of the Dutch market selling packages to vacation on Aruba.

About 1500 registered travel offices in Holland offer travel through Tui Nederland, of which 130 of these offices belong to Arke, with 60 of them operating as a franchise of Holland International.



Every year Tui Nederland sends travel agents to see the Aruban product. For those who have already visited Aruba, the video will serve as a reminder of what Aruba has to offer the visitor. Aruba is enjoyed as a luxury destination offering “Sun, Sand and Sea,” which are the three aspects that the Dutch and European visitor craves.

The video to be produced shortly will illustrate and highlight the tourism attractions on Aruba and just about everything that Aruba has to offer for every type of tourist. It will picture our beaches, our famous Fofoti tree and Baby Beach. There will be

scenes for weddings on the beach, such as at Manchebo. There will also be scenes of Spa and Joga on the beach.

The video will depict the dedication to the environment as supported by various hotels, such as Bucuti and Tara Beach Resorts. The turtle’s nests will be a welcome feature in the video.

The video will give attention to our National Park, Parke Arikok, our golf course at Tierra del Sol and at the Divi Links. Aruba Butterfly Farm and Aruba Aloe will not be left out. Shopping on Aruba in our famous shopping plazas, Renaissance and

Paseo Herencia and the other shopping malls at Palm Beach Plaza will be in focus as well.

In the video, Aruba’s famous restaurants and our own local creole Zeerover’s Restaurant where visitors love to go and mingle with the locals will be captured on camera. Night life, of course is not left out. And, a visit to Caribbean Festival in San Nicolaas was the icing on the cake. The video presents a mini parade and happy people dancing at the rhythm of a brass band in the streets of San Nicolaas.

The orchestration of this video was done by representatives of Aruba Tourism Authority, namely Amayra Boekhoudt, and Tui Nederland, as well as Francis Ridderstap of Divi All Inclusive Resort. ATA expressed gratitude for the support of her partners in tourism who in one way or other cooperated with the filming and production of the video, and for making the stay of the Dutch team so pleasant and memorable.



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Jordan Harms Graduates Cum Laude from Rhodes College



Jordan with Dr. Nollan and Mom Amy

Four years ago I wrote about the autistic young man with a dream going off to Rhodes College in Memphis, TN. At that time I had not met Jordan personally, although I had read most of the reports he had written during his four

tions policymaking process in Washington in the future. His graduation from Rhodes is just one more step towards realizing his dream

In his letter recommending Jordan as a candidate for the highly prestigious Lint



Jordan with Mom Amy and Dad Lionel

years as a high-school student. Earlier this month I had the pleasure of meeting Jordan and witnessing his graduation.

Jordan's dream has not died with his graduation. On the contrary, he is more committed than ever to play a key role in the International Rela-

Scholarship for National Defense, Dr. Andrew A. Michta, the M. W. Buckman Distinguished Professor of International Studies writes of Jordan, "...a young man of exceptional promise. His intelligence and commitment to a career in the field of intelligence make him an ideal

candidate for the Scholarship... he has excellent leadership potential, with students routinely looking up to him ...he is someone who is driven by genuine interest in international relations and national security affairs, and as a result he reads constantly on the subject..."

Jordan received the scholarship as a sophomore.

In 2011 Jordan was inducted into the Sigma Iota Rho (ΣΙΡ) National Honor Society for International Studies. Recognizing his exceptional writing skills, the Society appointed Jordan as Associate Editor for the publication of the Spring 2012 edition of its Journal Of International Relations.

I had the honor of talking to three professors who left their mark on Jordan.

Dr. Valerie Nollan, Department of Modern Languages and Literatures, taught Jordan Russian language and culture. As Dr. Nollan's son is also autistic, she and her family became good friends with Jordan and his family. Dr. Nollan is also a musician who has done an extensive research on the life of Sergei Rachmaninoff. She is considered an eminence and is invited at other universities to lecture on the subject.

Dr. Kenny Morrell, Department Chairman, Greek and Roman Studies, is considered the engine pushing the compulsory two years Search for Values program. This program exposes the students to the great books and thinkers of the Western Civilization. Dr. Morrell is a world-renowned scholar in Greek and Roman studies, and travels to Greece often, giving his lectures via Skype when he is in Athens! Be-



Jordan with professors Morrell and Ceccoli

cause of Jordan's very high grades, he was appointed as a member of the Search for Values Advisory Council made up of students. In his letter of recommendation, Dr. Andrew A. Michta also wrote of Jordan, "...a young man committed to traditional values and a young man of integrity...". Undoubtedly, the Search for Values Program helped to mold this young man.

Dr. Stephen Ceccoli, Department Chairman, International Studies Program helped to guide Jordan during his four years as a major in International Studies and through the "onerous" International Political Economy

class this last semester. Dr. Ceccoli has been instrumental in helping Jordan get accepted to the graduate programs of three of the highest regarded universities for International Studies: Johns Hopkins, George Washington and Georgetown.

After a brilliant career at Rhodes, Jordan Harms, the autistic young man with a dream has the luxury of having to choose among these respected universities! His parents Lionel Harms of Aruba and Amy Mitchell of Mill Vale, CA can be very proud of the way their son has progressed.

Send your comments to clydeharms@gmail.com



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Obama honors 'giant' Dylan with top US honor

Continued from pg 1

(AFP)-- "I remember in college listening to Bob Dylan and my world opening up, because he captured something about this country that was so vital," Obama added.

The revered singer-songwriter was last at the White House in February 2010, when he performed protest anthem "The Times, They are a Changin'" nearly 50 years after belting out songs of revolution on Washington's National Mall.

Obama also had warm words for Albright, the first woman to serve as US secretary of state, during former president Bill Clinton's second term.

"When Saddam Hussein called her a 'snake,' she wore a serpent on her lapel the next time she visited Baghdad," Obama quipped in a reference to the former top diplomat's penchant for sporting flamboyant broaches.

"As the first woman to serve as America's top diplomat, Madeleine's courage and toughness helped bring peace to the Balkans and paved the way for progress in some of the most unstable corners of

the world."

Obama lauded another female pioneer Toni Morrison, author of novels "Song of Solomon" and "Beloved" for prose of a "kind of moral and emotional intensity that few writers ever attempt."

"She believes that language arcs toward the place where meaning might lie, and the rest of us are lucky to be following along for the ride."

Obama also posthumously recognized former Polish underground resistance officer Jan Karski for his role in exposing the Holocaust after he provided some of the first eyewitness accounts from the Warsaw ghetto and a Nazi transit camp.

Also honored with the Presidential Medal of Freedom on Tuesday were civil rights lawyer John Doar, epidemiologist William Foege, labor organizer Dolores Huerta, retired Supreme Court justice John Paul Stevens, and woman's basketball coach Pat Summitt.

Israel President Shimon Peres will be invested with the Presidential Medal of Freedom in a separate ceremony.

International School of Aruba visits Aruba's Airport



Recently, Aruba's airport Reina Beatrix got a visit from students of International School of Aruba (ISA). The goal of their visit was to get to know the airport and learn of all it the work takes and how many different companies are involved to make the airport function daily at a top level.

The students received in-

formation at the check-in bali, immigration, security screening point and they also enjoyed a tour in the airport's shopping mall.

One of the highlights of the tour was when the students got a close up look and explanation of DHL's Cargo plane. Besides that Mr. Alejandro Muyale also give the students the opportunity to

visit one of the Tiara Air Boeing 737.

Students as well as teachers were very satisfied with the airport tour and everything they learned.

At the end of the tour Tiara Air and Aruba Airport Authority presented a little souvenir to each student.

Photo depicts the students accompanied by their teacher.

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TUESDAY AND FRIDAY: LIVE MUSIC

International News

Romney looks to seal Republican nomination

WASHINGTON (AFP) - Mitt Romney should clinch the Republican presidential nomination today by winning the Texas primary, overcoming doubts about his ideological purity to become the party's 2012 flag bearer after a bruising battle.

Voters in the second most populous US state cast their ballots today, with Romney the only Republican still actively campaigning for the nomination to challenge President Barack Obama in November.

An all-but-assured Texas victory will secure him the 1,144 delegates needed, capping a long, rough-and-tumble slog through dozens of state primaries and caucuses.

Rivals like Newt Gingrich and Rick Santorum humbled Romney by stealing some victories, rallying voters to their more conservative agenda and highlighting his flipflops on

key issues such as abortion.

They also accused Romney of being the wrong candidate to challenge Obama on his historic health care reform, widely reviled by core conservatives, because as governor of Massachusetts he implemented similar reforms that the White House readily states formed the basis for the Obama plan.

But the pugnacious and well-funded Romney always bounced back, unleashing furious assaults on his challengers such as the one in Florida that helped him trounce former House speaker Gingrich, who had alarmed the Romney campaign by winning the South Carolina primary the week before.

In nominating a multimillionaire former businessman, the Republican Party is in familiar territory, but in one key respect Romney is making history, as the nation's first-ever

Mormon nominee of a major political party.

Romney, 65, pivoted toward Obama in his campaign speeches and events more than a month ago, when it became clear his long march toward the nomination at the party convention in August would not be stopped.

In Texas, 155 delegates are at stake. Romney's tally currently stands at 1,064, according to the website RealClearPolitics, some 80 shy of the nomination threshold.

Polls show a steadily tightening White House race, with Republicans coalescing behind Romney in the weeks since Gingrich and Santorum dropped out of the race.

Poll aggregates show Obama narrowly ahead. The latest RealClearPolitics average shows the president with a two-point lead, 45.6 to 43.6 percent.

Rights bodies urge ICC to probe Colombia killings

THE HAGUE (AFP) - Rights organisations on Tuesday called on the International Criminal Court to probe extrajudicial killings in Colombia, saying citizens were killed by the army and then passed-off as rebels.

The International Federation of Human Rights as well as the Colombia, Europe US Coordination "call on the ICC to open an investigation into crimes against humanity in Colombia" committed between 2002 and 2008, they said in a statement issued in The Hague.

The two non-governmental organisations on Tuesday released a report entitled: "Colombia: a war measured in litres of blood" in which they alleged the "systematic and widespread" extra-judicial executions of around 3,000 Colombian civilians.

The victims were then "presented as guerrillas killed in combat", the report said,

adding it was done to boost claims of success by the army in operations against Colombia's rebel and militia movements.

"Such acts were supported by the highest military officials, who not only failed to exercise their duty to monitor, but also encouraged this behaviour," the two organisations said.

ICC chief prosecutor Luis Moreno-Ocampo's office announced in 2006 that a preliminary examination into Colombia's violent struggle between its military, guerrillas and paramilitary forces had been launched.

Its aim was to check whether a full-blown ICC investigation was justified as a result of Colombian courts being unable or unwilling to try crimes against humanity, war crimes and genocide that may have been committed in the South American country.

US police identify attacker who gnawed off victim's face



MIAMI (AFP) - The nude assailant who almost killed another man over the weekend by biting his face off was identified Tuesday by Miami police, who said they are still in the dark about what provoked the bizarre and savage attack.

The aggressor, Rudy Eugene, 31, was shot dead by po-

lice who said he had devoured almost the entire face of his victim.

The unidentified homeless man, who also was naked during the attack, remains hospitalized and fighting for his life.

"We are expecting a report from our detectives to give more details to the media. We are also looking for more witnesses to this crime," a Miami police spokesman said. "The victim remains in critical condition."

The bloody spectacle unfolded mid-afternoon on Saturday, when police were alerted by the public as the attack was being carried out near Miami's MacArthur Causeway.

Police ordered Eugene to stop the assault, then fatally shot him when he continued to gnaw at the face of his victim.

Television footage and news photos have shown the two men sprawled on the sidewalk side by side, with the victim barely conscious and covered in blood with up to 75 percent of his face ripped off.

Police initially said the attack could have been provoked by an overdose of a powerful new form of LSD mixed along with "cocaine psychosis."

Reports however Tuesday suggested Eugene was likely under the influence of the synthetic stimulant "bath salts" made with the active agent mephedrone, which produces an often aggressive, chaotic experience for users, coupled with intense hallucinations.

Authorities hope that the victim, if he survives, could help explain what precipitated the grisly attack.

German charged with 'date rape' drug serial murders

BERLIN (AFP) - A German man charged with murdering two men by poisoning them with the "date rape" drug liquid ecstasy has confessed to a third killing, police said Tuesday.

The 37-year-old, who selected his victims mainly from Berlin's gay scene, killed a 32-year-old man in a gay bar in the early hours of May 5 with liquid ecstasy and a 34-year-old in his flat on April 26, police said.

During the course of the investigation, police said he had admitted to a third murder, of a 41-year-old on May 16, again using the drug.

Police gave no motive for the alleged murders but the

victims were, in some cases, robbed of their valuables.

German media have dubbed the man the "darkroom murderer" as one of the victims was found dead in a room for discreet sexual encounters.

He was charged on Sunday -- before his confession -- on suspicion of two counts of murder and one of attempted murder.

Shortly after the May 5 incident, he gave a 26-year-old man a drink spiked with liquid ecstasy in a train station, police said. Alert passers-by noticed he was in difficulty, raised the alarm and he survived.

Police are investigating possible connections to other suspicious deaths.

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International News

Death toll rises in quake-struck Italy



SAN FELICE SUL PANARO (AFP) - A strong earthquake on Tuesday rocked northeastern Italy, killing at least 17 people and wounding 200 just days after another quake in the same region wrought death and destruction, while rescue forces were searching for four or five other people still missing.

Historic chapels, churches and buildings damaged in the first quake crumbled to the ground as alarmed citizens joined those already camping out in blue tent camps set up in parks and school playgrounds after the last quake.

Several victims were workers crushed when factories collapsed, while a parish priest in the town of Rovereto di Novi was killed by a falling beam, reportedly after he went back

into his church to save a Madonna statue.

In San Felice del Panaro, the dead were identified as Italian, Moroccan and Indian factory workers. "I don't think we are safe, the factory has completely collapsed," a fellow Indian worker told AFP as he called on Allah for help.

Pope Benedict XVI sent his condolences to the families of the victims.

Tuesday's quake was felt throughout northern and central Italy, causing the the collapse of houses and schools structures weakened by the quake nine days ago which killed six people and left thousands in makeshift tent dwellings, and sparking fresh fear among already jittery citizens.

Around 7,000 people who

fled their homes in northeast Italy in the quake over a week ago are still living in around 89 tent camps erected in fields, sports fields, car parks and schools, which can take up to 9,000 people.

The region has been hit by a series of quakes and aftershocks over the past two weeks. Authorities have registered at least 800 tremors since May 20.

US top court refuses to review Taser gun use by cops

WASHINGTON (AFP) - The US Supreme Court on Tuesday refused to review the use of Taser stun guns by police on two women, including one who was seven months pregnant at the time.

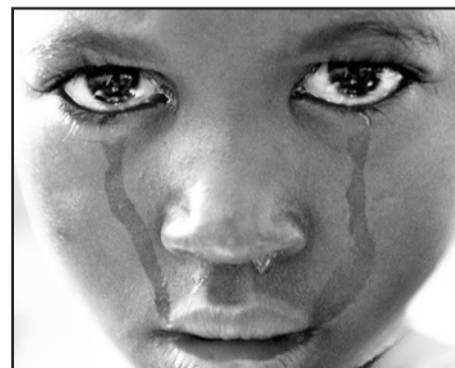
In one of the cases, Malaika Brooks was driving her son to school in the northwestern city of Seattle in 2004 when she was stopped for speeding. When she refused to get out of her car because she was just weeks away from giving birth, police zapped her three times.

In the other case, police used a Taser gun on Jayzel Mattos in her home in Hawaii in 2006 when she tried to stop the arrest of her husband.

In both cases, the women argued that their constitutional rights had been violated.

At least 43 people have died after being tased by police, increasing the number of deaths in the United States to 497 since 2001, the rights group said in its annual report.

Guinean couple charged in France for genital mutilation



NEVERS (AFP) - A couple of Guinean origin went on trial here Tuesday accused of carrying out what France considers genital mutilation on their four daughters, but some Africans view as a traditional practice.

The parents, charged with "complicity in wilful violence", face up to 20 years in prison, since the fact that their daughters were minors at the time of the procedure known as female circumcision was considered an aggravating circumstance.

They arrived in the Nevers court in central France with their two eldest daughters, now adults, and were joined later by the two youngest, aged 11 and 13, who had asked to return home after a temporary placement elsewhere.

The affair came to light in 2005 when the mutilation of the eldest girl was discovered in a Nevers hospital, where she was being operated on for appendicitis.

The couple replied calmly and briefly to the questions of the court during a first morning hearing mainly given over to the reading of the charge sheet.

The mother, helped by a translator because of a lack of French, repeated what her husband, a former witchdoctor, had told investigators, that "a woman came" to their house and carried out the procedure in their absence.

"This custom persists because girls who have not been circumcised are socially excluded" and cannot get married later on, a relative of the family told AFP outside the courtroom.

Female circumcision is still practised as an ancestral custom in parts of Africa despite awareness campaigns and increasingly tough legislation. This mutilation consists in a complete or partial cutting off of the clitoris and sometimes the lips of the vagina. It is banned in France.

A psychological expertise presented in court on the two youngest girls concluded that they were totally submitted to parental authority and that "circumcision was a taboo subject in the family".

The evidence of the girls, who have said they remember nothing and never left France, was yet to come.

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Health & Living

German MPs seek to raise number of organ donors

BERLIN (AFP) - German lawmakers adopted a bill yesterday aimed at increasing the number of organ donors by allowing health insurance companies to regularly inquire if their patients are willing to become potential donors.

"We are saying to people, 'every organ donor is someone who saves a life'," Health Minister Daniel Bahr told MPs in the lower house of the German parliament, the Bundestag.

With a wide majority, parliamentarians agreed that all over-16 year-olds could be regularly contacted by their health insurer by letter to ask if they were willing to declare themselves ready to donate an organ after their death.

Volker Kauder, who heads

the Christian Democrats' parliamentary group, stressed the decision was voluntary and that nobody would face any pressure over their decision.

Germany's 1,350 hospitals that are equipped with intensive care units would also have to appoint an official to oversee possible organ donations.

The German Foundation for Organ Transplants estimates that around 12,000 people are waiting for an organ transplant in the country.

The issue of organ donation has been particularly sensitive in Germany since 2010 when a former foreign minister and former challenger to Chancellor Angela Merkel, Frank-Walter Steinmeier, donated a kidney to his wife.

Vietnam executions delayed by lack of drugs

HANOI (AFP) - The execution of more than 400 death row prisoners in Vietnam has been held up for nearly a year following a decision to replace firing squads with lethal injections, state media said Tuesday.

Since dropping firing squads in July last year in an effort to introduce a "more humane" method of judicial killing, Vietnam has yet to decide which drugs to use to administer the fatal dose, triggering a backlog.

"We have more than 400 prisoners sentenced to death and we cannot execute them," a senior official at the ministry of public security said, according to the Tuoi Tre newspaper.

"More than 100 of them have completed all the final formalities and should be executed but there is no drug to do

so," Deputy Minister Dang Van Hieu said.

The health ministry, which has been given responsibility for selecting and importing the drugs, said it was planning to buy supplies from India, the United States or China, but was still checking prices and quality.

Vietnam does not disclose the number of executions it carries out each year, but rights group Amnesty International recorded five in 2011, with 23 new sentences handed out that year, mainly to drug traffickers.

The campaign group has said changing one form of execution for another did not address the "inhumanity" of the punishment and has called on Vietnam to work towards abolishing the death penalty.

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Double quake highlights Italy's seismic perils



PARIS (AFP) - Two killer earthquakes that struck northeastern Italy in nine days have shed light on the brutal but complex seismic forces that grip the Italian peninsula, scientists say.

Brian Baptie, a seismologist with the British Geological Survey (BGS), said the worst earthquakes in Italy occurred in the south of the country, which lies close to where one of Earth's tectonic plates is sliding under another.

Farther north, earthquakes may be triggered by collisions in the south or by complex faults running through the Apennines, the mountainous "spine" of Italy, he explained.

"Southern Italy sits at a plate boundary. The boundary between the African plate

and the Eurasian plate runs through the Mediterranean Sea just south of Italy," Baptie said in a phone interview from Edinburgh.

"The African plate is being subducted under the European plate, so that's why you get volcanoes like Etna and Vesuvius in southern Italy and why you get bigger earthquakes down there.

"Further north into Italy, earthquakes are still caused by that collision, but there are also more complicated things going on as well.

"You get the Apennine mountains running down the north-south axis of Italy, there are fault systems that run all the way through those mountains and they generate earthquake activity as well."

The big mischief-maker in northern Italy -- and also in

the western Balkans -- is Adria, a microplate that covers the Adriatic Sea and is also sliding beneath the European plate.

On its website, the US Geological Survey (USGS) said Adria "greatly complicated" seismic activity in northern Italy, contributing to a compression of the northern end of the Apennine chain.

At least 15 people were killed on Tuesday by tremors measuring up to 5.8 magnitude that struck a region east of the city of Palma.

On May 20, a 6.0-magnitude quake in the same region killed six people and reduced homes and historic buildings to rubble. It has been followed by hundreds of tremors.

Baptie said it was "entirely possible" that the May 20 earthquake had set off the May 29 event.

"We know that when there are large earthquakes, stress is transferred to other fault systems and that in turn can trigger an earthquake on that fault as well," he said.

In May 2009, a 6.3-magnitude quake devastated the city of L'Aquila in central Italy, killing some 300 people and leaving tens of thousands homeless.

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Sci-Tech

Teenagers play detectives on Interpol's new website



LYON (AFP) - Global police agency Interpol Tuesday launched a website to educate teenagers about crimes that can be committed over the Internet and tell them how they can protect themselves from the dangers.

"Every day, Interpol works with police around the world to fight all types of crime, and we have seen the increasing dangers posed to the public, and especially young people, through crimes committed via the Internet," said Roraima Andriani, a senior agency official who oversaw the project.

"Interpol's new educational website enables us to share the knowledge and expertise we have developed with our member countries to help chil-

dren become better informed on how to protect themselves," she said.

The new website also aims to teach teenagers about the 190-country-member organization that is based in this French city in the foothills of the Alps.

A focal point of the new site is a game "Interpol Junior Officer -- the Case of the Black Tattoo," in which players assume the role of an Interpol officer who travels worldwide, gathering clues to help local police track down an international gang involved in smuggling.

The website was launched in English and will eventually have Arabic, French and Spanish versions.



LOS ANGELES - Massive bluefin tuna have carried low levels of nuclear radiation from the tsunami-damaged Fukushima power plant radioactive contamination across 6,000 miles of the Pacific Ocean to the California shores. Small amounts of cesium-137 and cesium-134 were detected in 15 tuna caught near San Diego in August 2011, scientists reported on Monday. The amount of radioactive cesium in the fish is not thought to be damaging to people if consumed, the researchers said in a study published in the journal Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.

COMICS

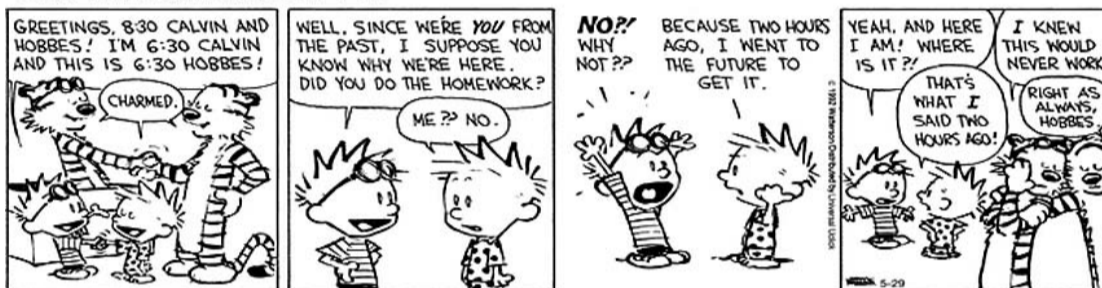
PICKLES



MOMMA



CALVIN and HOBBS



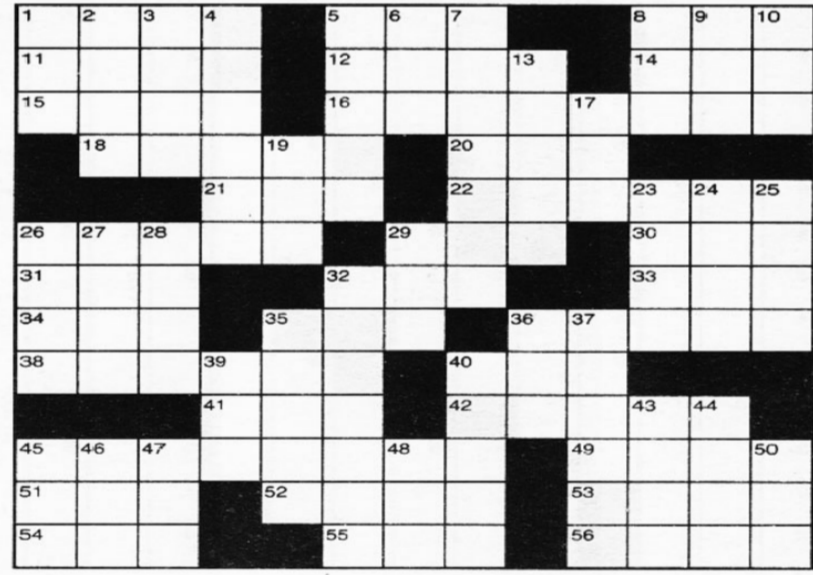
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ACROSS

- 1. ___ Bear
- 5. It follows Nov.
- 8. "How ___ you?"
- 11. Attain
- 12. Kitchen or den
- 14. Hammering sound
- 15. Onassis et al.
- 16. Not guilty
- 18. Uttered
- 20. Surmount
- 21. Bandleader Brown
- 22. Without purpose
- 26. Comic DeGeneres
- 29. Behave or print preceder
- 30. Travel term
- 31. American as apple ___
- 32. Chewbacca pal Solo
- 33. ___ -Margret
- 34. One Gershwin
- 35. Curse
- 36. Tears apart
- 38. Easy gallop
- 40. Heavy barrel
- 41. Eccentric
- 42. At ___ (puzzled, 2 wds.)
- 45. Rudolph, e.g.
- 49. Flapjack chain (abbr.)
- 51. Air-rifle ammo
- 52. Johnson of "Laugh-In"
- 53. Red and

- Black (abbr.)
- 54. PC maker (abbr.)
- 55. ___ Rafael
- 56. Sour
- 13. Tempers
- 17. Lifesaving skill (abbr.)
- 19. Barbie's ex
- 23. "Terrible" czar
- 24. Valuable item
- 25. Becomes brown
- 26. Magnificent
- 27. Euro's predecessor in Italy
- 28. Thin
- 29. ___ von Sydow
- 32. Sheep tenders
- 35. Gossip's Hopper
- 36. Aunt or cousin (abbr.)
- 37. Conceited one
- 39. Coal weight
- 40. "Will & Grace" character
- 43. Where the Mets used to play
- 44. Fly high
- 45. Baseball stat
- 46. Fade
- 47. Suffix for a doctrine
- 48. Timetable abbreviation
- 50. Attention-getting sound



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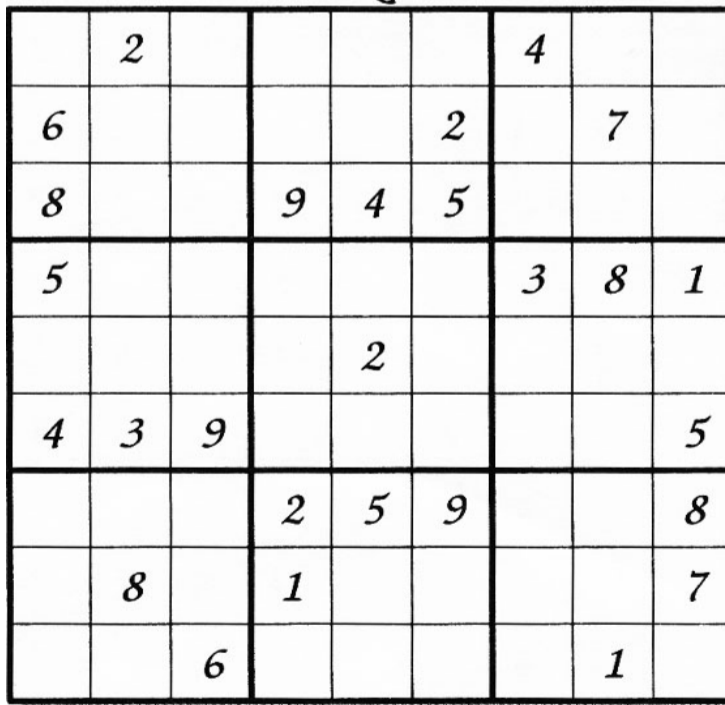
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Sudoku



SOLUTION

4	1	5	8	6	2	9	3	7
2	6	7	9	1	5	8	4	3
8	3	9	6	5	2	7	1	4
5	2	1	8	9	6	4	7	3
9	4	6	3	7	8	1	5	2
1	8	3	2	6	7	4	9	5
7	9	1	5	4	6	3	8	2
6	2	8	7	1	4	9	5	3
3	5	4	9	2	1	7	6	8

Complete the grid so that every row and every column contains the numbers 1 through 9
A number is Never repeated in a row or column.
In addition every rectangle must contain the numbers 1 through 9

Finance

US stocks add 1% but Facebook plunges

NEW YORK (AFP) - US stocks rose more than one percent Tuesday helped by hopes that China will launch a stimulus program and signs Greece's elections might push through a euro-friendly government.

But Facebook shares headed in the opposite direction again, dropping nearly 10 percent to \$28.84, far below the \$38 IPO price of May 18.

At the close of trade the Dow was up 125.86 points (1.01 percent) to 12,580.69.

The S&P 500 index gained 14.60 (1.11 percent) to 1,332.42, while the Nasdaq added 33.46 (1.18 percent) to 2,870.99.

"Sentiment was strengthened... amid speculation of further stimulus in the form of increased spending by China, and encouraging comments from political leaders in Greece pertaining to their interest in maintaining their country's membership in the

euro," said Briefing.com.

Bank of America led the Dow blue chips higher with a 4.1 percent gain, followed by China-sensitive Caterpillar, up 2.9 percent, and Alcoa, 3.0 percent.

Chesapeake Energy jumped 3.4 percent on the news late Friday that corporate raider Carl Icahn had built a 7.6 percent stake in the company and signaled he would try to shake up the natural gas giant's board.

On the Nasdaq, both Apple and Microsoft gained 1.7 percent, while the newest big tech counter, Facebook, sank again, bringing its loss on the IPO price to 24 percent.

So far eight class-action lawsuits have been lodged against the company in district courts in New York and California alleging that smaller investors were denied information that would have darkened their views of the company in the days before

the listing.

In afterhours trade shares in Blackberry maker Research In Motion sank nearly 11 percent from its closing price of \$11.23 after it warned that it could report a loss in the current quarter.

The company also said it had hired JP Morgan Securities and RBC Capital Markets to study its strategic options.

Bond prices edged higher with the dollar's gains against the euro. The yield on the 10-year Treasury bond fell to 1.73 percent from 1.75 percent late Friday, while the 30-year fell held at 2.84 percent from 2.85 percent.

Bond prices and yields move in opposite directions.

Lawyers making out the most in Madoff case

NEW YORK (AFP) - Lawyers are slowly clawing back some of the billions of dollars that victims lost in the Madoff ponzi scheme -- but so far most of the money has gone into their own pockets.

The operations led by liquidator Irving Picard, the New York attorney in charge of recovering the huge sums cheated by now-jailed Wall Street high-flyer Bernie Madoff are burning up the cash almost as fast as they can recover it, a new report on his website showed Tuesday.

In the more than three years since Madoff's massive pyramid fund collapsed, with investor real losses around \$17.3 billion, the lawyers have burned up \$554 million, while returning only \$330 million to victims.

Picard himself, with his

hourly fee put by the New York Times at \$850 an hour, has pulled in \$5.1 million from the work.

The whole team of lawyers has eaten up \$300 million, while specialists consultants have earned \$220 million.

The lawyers have been tracking down the claims of thousands of investors who lost money on Madoff, who for decades convinced hundreds of investors that he was racking up huge profits with their savings.

So far they have recovered or reached deals to recover \$9.13 billion, but most of that remains locked up in court procedures and challenges.

Madoff, a charismatic mogul and once chairman of the Nasdaq stock exchange, fooled charities, major banks, Hollywood moguls and savvy financial players, in building up the alleged investment operation that many fought to take part in.

Based on the fake profit reports they had received from Madoff's investment fund operations, victims claimed some \$65 billion in losses after the business collapsed in December 2008.

But there was little money left when he was arrested for financial fraud.

Oil prices fall on Spain concerns



NEW YORK (AFP) - Oil prices fell Tuesday on Spain's debt and banking woes, while losses were capped by the prospect of a disruption to Middle East supplies caused by tensions over Iran, traders said.

New York's main contract, West Texas Intermediate crude for delivery in July dropped 10 cents at \$90.76 a barrel.

Brent North Sea crude for July shed 43 cents to \$106.68 in late London deals.

Markets are increasingly worried that Spain -- the eurozone's fourth largest economy -- could follow Greece, Ireland and Portugal in asking for a massive international bailout. This in turn is likely to weigh on crude demand.

Investors were also keeping close watch on the situation in Iran, after the Islamic republic and Western powers failed to reach an agreement on Tehran's nuclear program, which is believed linked to a nuclear weapons push.

Despite the offer of incentives by the West, Tehran has refused to suspend enrich-



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Spanish bailout speculation fuels euro's fall

NEW YORK (AFP) - The euro tumbled Tuesday on fears that debt-plagued Spain could be forced to seek a

bailout and as sovereign borrowing rates spiked close to danger levels.

The European single currency plummeted to \$1.2488, down 0.4 percent from Monday evening.

Investors watched as Spanish bonds neared the seven-percent yield mark, "a level that is considered a breaking point at which Spain will need to revert to international financial help," according to Anita Paluch at Gekko Global Markets.

"It's actually something we have seen back in the days when Greece, Ireland and Portugal had to be bailed out," Paluch said.

Spanish banks are at the heart of the renewed crisis, with the government forced to step in and save Bankia from bad mortgage bets.

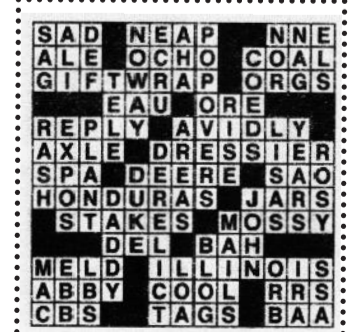
That has only added to the weight of debt that the Spanish state labors under.

The dollar rose 0.05 percent to 79.52 yen.

The pound fell to \$1.5637, down 0.3 percent.

The dollar rose almost 0.4 percent against the Swiss franc to 0.9618 francs.

YESTERDAY'S Crossword Answer



Current as of:	Currency Code	Buying rate banknotes	Buying Cheques	Selling Rate
05/29/2012				
U.S.A.	USD	1.77	1.78	1.80
Dutch Antilles	ANG	0.98	1.00	1.002
Canada	CAD	1.720	1.740	1.760
Britain	GBP	2.720	2.770	2.830
Switzerland	CHF	1.8545	1.8617	1.8697
Netherlands	EUR	2.2102	2.2304	2.2528
Sweden	SEK	0.2382	0.2454	0.2534
Denmark	DKK	0.2905	0.2977	0.3057
Norway	NOK	0.2869	0.2941	0.3021
Japan	JPY	221.82	233.85	226.10

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Princes' heartache at royal wedding without Diana

LONDON (AFP) - Britain's Prince William said his wedding day last year was the one moment above all that he wished his mother Diana could have witnessed.

In an interview with US broadcaster ABC News, William said it was "very sad" that Diana, princess of Wales who died in a car crash in Paris in 1997, could not be there to see him tie the knot with his university sweetheart Kate Middleton.

His brother Prince Harry, who was William's best man for the ceremony at London's Westminster Abbey, said their mother probably had the "best seat in the house" at the service.

Asked if he missed his mother on his wedding day last April, William, 29, replied: "It was very difficult.

"I was sort of mentally prepared so I didn't want any wobbly lips or anything going on.

"It's the one time since she's died, where I've thought to myself it would be fantastic if she was here.

"And just how sad really for her, more than anything, not being able to see it. Because I think she would have loved the day and I think, hopefully, she'd be very proud of us both for the day.

"I'm just very sad that she's never going to get a chance to meet Kate."

William gave his bride-to-be the same sapphire and diamond engagement ring that his mother had.

The wedding ceremony was conducted a few steps from where Diana's coffin lay for her funeral.

Though Harry appeared at ease during the wedding, watched by billions around the world on television, he admitted to being "massively nervous".

"Everybody was nervous. And the whole thing was a bit of a blur to be honest, because, there was God knows how many millions or billions of eyes focused on us," the 27-year-old said.

Asked if it was difficult not having Diana with them, he replied: "Of course it was."

He added: "I think she had...the best seat in the house probably, but, yeah she would have loved to have been there."

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Mandela returns to childhood village



A general view of Nelson Mandela's house, in the village of Qunu, where the former South African President grew up and has returned for his retirement.

JOHANNESBURG (AFP) - Nelson Mandela arrived Tuesday at his residence in his childhood village of Qunu after spending several months at his Johannesburg home, the South African presidency said.

"The Presidency is pleased to confirm that former president Nelson Mandela has ... arrived at his home in Qunu," said presidential spokesman Mac Maharaj in a statement.

The anti-apartheid icon and elder statesman grew up in the picturesque village in the rural Eastern Cape province, where his hilltop house, with a round-the-clock police guard, stands out among many nondescript traditional huts dotting the countryside.

Mandela often entertained guests including global celebrities and heads of state during private birthday parties at this rural abode.

He returned to Qunu after staying temporarily in his residence in the leafy Johannesburg suburb.

"Over the past few months former president Mandela's Qunu house was being refurbished, and as a result he relocated to his Houghton home during that period," Maharaj had said.

Revered as the symbol of South Africa's post-apartheid reconciliation, Mandela was briefly hospitalised in February, stoking fears over his health.

Now 93, his last public appearance was at the final of the 2010 World Cup in South Africa.

Mandela was released from 27 years in prison in 1990 and was elected South Africa's first black president four years later. He won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1993 and served one term before stepping down in 1999.

Earthquake hits Italy's balsamic vinegar producers



ROME (AFP) - The strong quake which struck Italy on Tuesday, killing 15 and destroying buildings, has also dealt a blow to Modena's balsamic vinegar industry -- days after a quake in the area hit Parmesan production.

The industry has suffered losses totalling 15 million euros (\$18 million), according to the head of the traditional balsamic vinegar consortium Enrico Corsini, who said stocks had been "seriously damaged" as tremors hit the area.

The Pontiról company based in San Felice sul Panaro -- one of the worst-hit towns - lost practically everything after its warehouses were flattened, while smaller warehouses owned by other producers were also badly damaged.

The 5.8 quake which struck Tuesday morning and the series of tremors of other 5.0 magnitude that followed "will bring the regional economy to its knees," Corsini said, adding that 200 businesses in the sector were affected.

The north of the Modena region, where the quake was felt particularly strongly, is home to dozens of balsamic vinegar producers. The consortium said some producers claimed to have lost over 100,000 litres of the costly delicacy.

The gourmet vinegar, sprinkled on salads and added to sauces the world over, can cost up to 1,500 euros a litre.

The Emilia Romagna region has some of Italy's richest farmland and is known for many delicacies including balsamic vinegar, Parmesan, Parma ham and Bolognese sauce, which are exported around the world.

Culinary production in the area suffered a heavy blow just 10 days ago when a 6.0 quake struck the same region, devastating Parmesan warehouses and costing the industry an estimated 200 million euros (\$286 million).

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Gold Coast Aruba: Great savings for large families on holiday rentals



Aruba's newest and most innovative gated community has enjoyed steady sales since breaking ground, as many are finding the secure surroundings and outstanding amenities are just what they were looking for before considering purchasing property on the island. Some owners are using the villas or town homes as vacation retreats rather than full time and are taking advantage of Gold Coast's rental services to turn their investment into ready income.

"The greater portion of home owners are using their 'home away from home' in Aruba to escape the winter months, or spend holidays with the family on the island," noted Gold Coast developer Fito Croes. To assist in the demand for more complete facilities for groups and families, famed hotelier Ed Malone has been placed in charge of the rental program.

Staying at Gold Coast is a very attractive proposition for those traveling with groups that would require multiple hotel rooms. Two and three bedroom Villas or Town Homes accommodate large numbers and offer extensive amenities along with a final cost resulting in considerable savings. The community is minutes to the best beaches and all the casino action, and offers a quiet and secluded getaway with two swimming pools and specialized services with more on the way, such as a fitness room, tennis courts and mini-mall. Ed can arrange maid service, babysitters, caterers, airline pick-up

and drop-off; they even boast a shopping service to stock your shelves before arrival.

Gold Coast accommodations are elegant and spacious, offering privacy for parents or a few couples.



Beautifully appointed kitchens and bathrooms grace each abode; barbecues and lounges are provided for friendly cookouts and truly savoring the island life. All homes come with cable TV,



high-speed fiber-optic Internet connection, individual washer/dryer, and are fully air-conditioned. Cribs, high chairs and hair dryers are available for a modest fee. Concierge services to arrange

rental cars, spa appointments, activities and restaurant reservations are all part of the package.

Check-in for your holiday escape is conducted in the comfort of your vacation home, not while waiting on line at check-in desk. In every way, Gold Coast seeks to pamper their guests while providing them with the feeling of being in a cozy community, not the normally bustling resort, particularly experienced during the major holidays. If you wish an optimal vacation experience with great savings, visit their website: www.goldcoastaruba.com to get acquainted with the community and the layout, details and availability of accommodations, or call 586-2200 to talk personally to a Gold Coast representative.

Regional gourmet dining is highly affordable at Scabeche



Fresh Grouper in Scabeche Sauce

THE MORNING NEWS taste-testing team had a very, very pleasant surprise when stopping by the newly rechristened Scabeche, located in the Caribbean Palm Villas Resort. Veteran visitors will be pleased to become reacquainted with Anky, who they will recognise from her years with Aruba's top gourmet eatery, Chez Mathilde, but has now realized her long-time dream of welcoming and befriending patrons in her own charming venue.

Anky has completely remodeled the lovely space

well as the Fruitti di Mare en Casserole, and recommend each of them highly. Scabeche is heaven for seafood lovers, but landlubbers will also be extremely pleased with the Tenderloin Tika, a HUGE steak skewer with loads of fresh vegetables.

Aside from their extremely pleasing and affordable regular menu, each night features some distinctive specialty. Monday is ITALIAN NIGHT including a free Caesar salad, Tuesday is HAPPY HOUR & 2



Steak Tika

within the resort, which is just a short walk from the Palm Beach resort area, to create a delightful ambiance and menu reflecting her great enthusiasm for fine food and quality service. Open for breakfast, lunch and dinner, after only one year they are receiving rave reviews under the original name, Caribbean Palm Restaurant. Scabeche is homage to the unique regional cooking which is their specialty, native to Peru and other Latin countries, but with a distinctly Caribbean flavor.

We absolutely must rave about their signature dish, Catch of the Day Escabeche, moist and fresh; we had grouper in a singular sauce that has us ready to go back ASAP for another helping. We also sampled the Shrimp and Scallops appetizer and the Ceviche Aruban Style, as

DOLLAR BEER STARTING AT 6PM, Wednesday is All You Can Eat BBQ Ribs for only \$19.95 and Thursday is THEIR SPECTACULAR CARNIVAL DINNER & SHOW (reservation required) and on Fridays a FARAWELL KARAOKE PARTY (50',60',70 music) with TAPAS MENU.

Scabeche is a welcome addition to the Palm Beach roster of restaurants and definitely deserves discovering. Diners will love the tranquil setting, excellent and friendly service, along with a very reasonably priced menu featuring several distinctive and delectable dishes. They also feature 2 for 1 Happy Hours 3 times a day from noon to 1 p.m., 3 to 5 p.m. and 9 to 10 p.m., tempting you to linger over a liqueur after your dinner.



EURO 2012 - POLAND - UKRAINE

June 8 - July 1



Euro 2012 organisers hit back over racism fears



KIEV (AFP) - An outraged Ukraine on Tuesday hit back at the British media, current and former footballers for urging fans to stay away from next month's Euro 2012 tournament over fears of racism and violence in the ex-Soviet state.

The foreign ministry in Kiev accused England of inventing the term "skinheads" and said it had also witnessed attacks on ethnic minorities, after the BBC claimed in a documentary that far-right gangs were rife in Polish and Ukrainian football.

The angry response suggested a growing frustration with how the tournament is turning out for a country that had hoped to use it as a glittering showcase of its post-Soviet development.

Ukraine is already facing a potential boycott by top European Union leaders over the alleged mistreatment of the opposition leader and former prime minister Yulia Tymoshenko, who is in jail on what critics say are trumped-up corruption charges.

"This is not the first time that countries such as Ukraine, Poland, Romania and the Czech Republic are accused by Western Europe of failing to live up to some sort of standards of respect for ethnic, sexual and other minorities aid ministry spokesman Oleg Voloshyn.

"We do not have inter-ethnic violence on our streets -- something that happened a few years ago in Paris or which happened in London itself last year," he added, referring to the rioting that rocked the British capital.

His comments come after ex-England captain Sol Campbell, who is black, warned fans to "stay home, watch it (the tournament) on TV... don't even risk it" after viewing footage of Polish and Ukrainian fans making Nazi salutes and monkey chants.

In Poland, organisers PL.2012 said the warnings

were unfair and had "nothing to do with reality", adding that instances of xenophobia and racism in stadiums were "a problem specific to the whole of Europe and not only to Poland".

The Polish foreign ministry meanwhile said that it will ask the BBC for a correction for broadcasting "unjust opinions that it will be dangerous in Poland during the Euro 2012 championship".

In Ukraine, Euro 2012 organising committee chief Markiyany Lubyivskiy admitted they were "hurt" and baffled by the claims, although Campbell was entitled to his view but urged more balanced reporting.

A BBC spokesman said they had filmed openly at a number of matches "and at every one recorded incidents of racism and/or violence including the vicious assault on Asian students at a stadium in Ukraine which will host Euro 2012 games".

He added: "It was in the public interest to highlight the behaviour of some Polish and Ukrainian football supporters

No Euro surprises according to Ronaldo



MADRID (AFP) - Portuguese star Cristiano Ronaldo played down hopes of his side lifting the European Championship title on July 1 on Tuesday saying he just hoped they could reach the knockout stages.

The 27-year-old - fresh

ahead of the championships, given UEFA's publicly stated policy of zero tolerance to racism."

The families of two black England players -- Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain and Theo Walcott -- have said they would not risk going to Ukraine to watch England's matches following public warnings from the British government.

The foreign ministries of Denmark and France have also issued similar advice to visitors about the risk of racist attacks.

In an apparent bid to pre-empt football-related violence, police in Poland on Monday arrested 42 people -- including prominent members of football hooligan gangs -- suspected of being involved in drug trafficking and extortion.

Since the fall of the Iron Curtain two decades ago, the far-right has found fertile ground among fan gangs in Eastern Europe's football stadiums.

Monitors from the UEFA-backed Football Against Racism in Europe (FARE) network have recorded dozens of shocking far-right slogans at Ukrainian league matches and plan to deploy at Euro 2012 games.

But they said that the Euro 2012 spotlight has helped tackle the issue.

UEFA said it was confident that Ukraine can ensure the safety of the 800,000 foreign fans expected at the tournament, which kicks off on June 8.

from lifting the La Liga title with Real Madrid - couldn't really see too many surprises on the horizon at Euro where his side faces a tough battle to progress from their group.

The Portuguese - who reached the final in 2004 when they hosted it and the quarter-finals last time out - have been drawn with three former champions in Germany, the Netherlands and Denmark.

"I don't think that in this Euro there will be a lot of surprises," said Ronaldo, who has often been criticised for not repeating his club form for his country.

"Spain are really strong and behind them there are difficult sides to play.

"We realise we are in a dif-

Criscito out of Italy squad after police search

ROME (AFP) - Domenico Criscito will not be part of Italy's Euro 2012 squad following his implication in the "Calcioscandalo" match-fixing scandal, Italian football federation vice-president Demetrio Albertini announced.

Criscito was handed a notice of indictment in a dawn raid on Monday in which his hotel room at Italy's pre-Euro base near Florence was searched by police.

"It was a decision shared by Prandelli and the federation," said Albertini. "He (Criscito) is disappointed about the repercussions on the national team and the dressing room.

"He explained certain things to me and I believe his version and in his innocence."

In a series of co-ordinated raids, 19 people were held by police following an investigation into illegal betting by the Cremona public prosecutor.

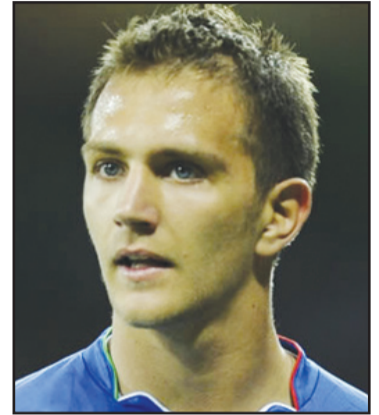
Of those, 14 were arrested, three were held under house arrest and two more ordered to present themselves to police.

Lazio captain Stefano Mauri and Padova midfielder Omar Milanetto, formerly of Genoa, were amongst those arrested.

Juventus coach Antonio Conte was submitted to a home search, as was Chievo captain Sergio Pellissier.

But the main drama was at Italy's Coverciano base, just outside Florence, where police swooped at 6:35 am

Criscito's room was searched, although it is believed nothing was taken



away.

Cremona public prosecutor Stefano Di Martino told a news conference that no other national team players were involved and that Criscito could "calmly go to the Euros", as he was merely helping police with the investigation.

His alleged involvement relates to a meeting he had in May last year, when playing for Genoa, with two of the clubs "ultra" fans, then teammate Giuseppe Sculli and a Bosnian with a criminal record.

The Calcioscandalo affair is believed to involve a group of Hungarians, a group of "Zingari" -- Gypsies in Italy -- and the heads of the crime syndicate in Singapore.

Criscito, 25, who plays for Zenit St Petersburg in Russia, has largely been the first-choice left-back under Prandelli.

15N15

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NBA: James scores 32 as Heat burn Celtics in opener



MIAMI (AFP) - LeBron James poured in 32 points and pulled down 13 rebounds on Monday as the Miami Heat drew first blood in the NBA Eastern Conference Finals with a 93-79 victory over the Boston Celtics.

Dwyane Wade added 22 points and seven assists for the Heat, who never trailed and led by as many as 17.

Miami host game two on Tuesday, with the winners of the best-of-seven series advancing to the NBA Finals

where they will play either Oklahoma City or San Antonio.

Shane Battier scored 10 points, Mario Chalmers had nine and Mike Miller finished with eight as the Heat again coped admirably without star forward Chris Bosh.

Bosh remained sidelined with a strained abdominal muscle, and Heat coach Erik Spoelstra said there was no timetable for his return.

Kevin Garnett scored 23 points and added 10 rebounds for Boston, but the Celtics looked a step slow most of the night after wrapping up a seven-game second-round victory over the Philadelphia

76ers on Saturday night. The Heat out-rebounded the Celtics 48-33, and blocked 11 Boston shots.

Rajon Rondo, whose triple-double led the Celtics in game seven against the Sixers, finished with 16 points, nine rebounds and seven assists.

Paul Pierce scored 12 points, connecting on just five of 18 shots from the floor.

The Celtics started firing in the second quarter, battling back from an 11-point deficit to tie the score at halftime.

But the Heat, led by NBA Most Valuable Player James and Wade, inexorably pulled away in the third.

James became the first player to score at least 30 points against the Celtics this post-season, but he, too, said the Heat have plenty of room for improvement.

The Celtics will certainly have to get better.

After scoring just 11 points in the first quarter they exploded for 35 in the second. But they were held to 15 in the third -- when they shot just 27 percent -- and coach Doc Rivers said they could not afford the "lulls".

The Heat, who won three straight games to complete their six-game second-round triumph over the Indiana Pacers on Thursday, are in the conference finals for the second straight year.

Last year they triumphed over Chicago to win the East title before falling to Dallas in the NBA Finals.



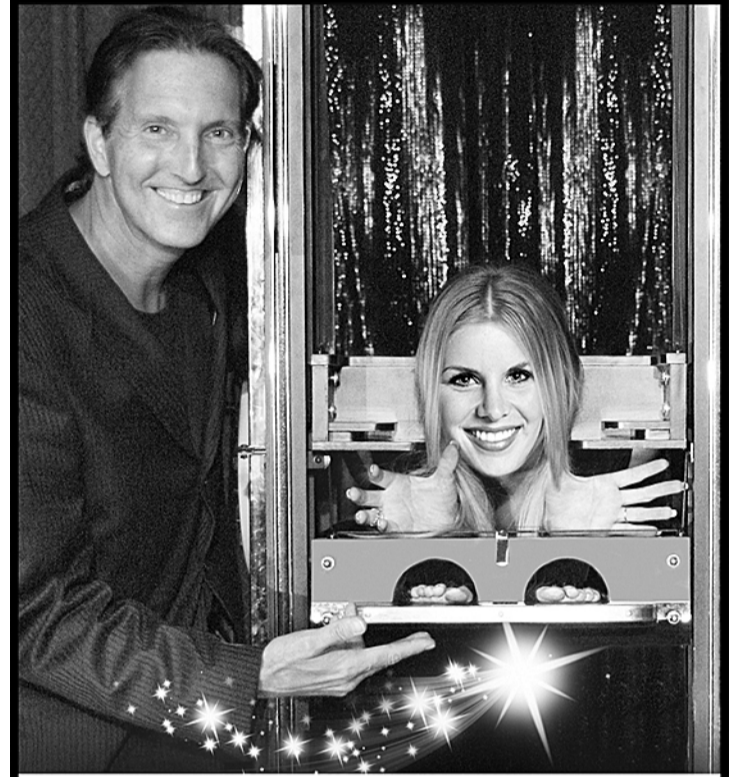
PARIS (AFP) - Serena Williams crashed to the worst Grand Slam defeat of her career on Tuesday when she slumped to a dramatic and thrilling 4-6, 7-6 (7/5), 6-3 French Open loss to France's world 111 Virginie Razzano. It was the 30-year-old American's first ever exit at the opening round stage of her 47-event Grand Slam career and her earliest loss at a major since she was knocked out of the Australian Open second round by sister Venus in 1998. On a night of unbearable tension on Philippe Chatrier Court, Williams saved seven match points in the ninth game of the nerve-jangling decider. "I'm disappointed, but that's life, things could be worse," said 13-time Grand Slam winner Williams, who missed last year's Roland Garros as she battled life-threatening blood clots in her lungs. "I've been through so much in my life. I'm not sitting here happy. I've gotta figure out what I did wrong and not do it again. I fought until the end."

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Printed by
Diario N.V.

Tel: 588-9517 / Fax: 588-9518
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MLB Standings

American League					National League				
East	W	L	Pct	GB	East	W	L	Pct	GB
BALTIMORE	29	20	.592	--	WASHINGTON	29	19	.604	--
TAMPA	29	20	.592	--	NY METS	27	22	.551	2.5
YANKEES	26	22	.542	2.5	MIAMI	27	22	.551	2.5
TORONTO	25	24	.510	4.0	ATLANTA	26	24	.520	4.0
BOSTON	24	24	.500	4.5	PHILADELPHIA	26	24	.520	4.0
Central	W	L	Pct	GB	Central	W	L	Pct	GB
CLEVELAND	27	21	.562	--	CINCINNATI	27	21	.562	--
CHICAGO	27	22	.551	0.5	ST. LOUIS	27	22	.551	0.5
DETROIT	23	25	.479	4.0	PITTSBURG	24	24	.500	3.0
KANSAS	19	28	.404	7.5	HOUSTON	22	27	.449	5.5
MINNESOTA	16	32	.333	11.0	MILWAUKEE	20	28	.417	7.0
West	W	L	Pct	GB	West	W	L	Pct	GB
TEXAS	31	18	.633	--	CHICAGO	17	32	.347	10.5
LA ANGELES	25	25	.500	6.5	LA DODGERS	32	16	.667	--
OAKLAND	22	27	.449	9.0	SAN FRANCISCO	26	23	.531	6.5
SEATTLE	21	30	.412	11.0	ARIZONA	22	27	.449	10.5
					COLORADO	19	29	.396	13.0
					SAN DIEGO	17	34	.333	16.5

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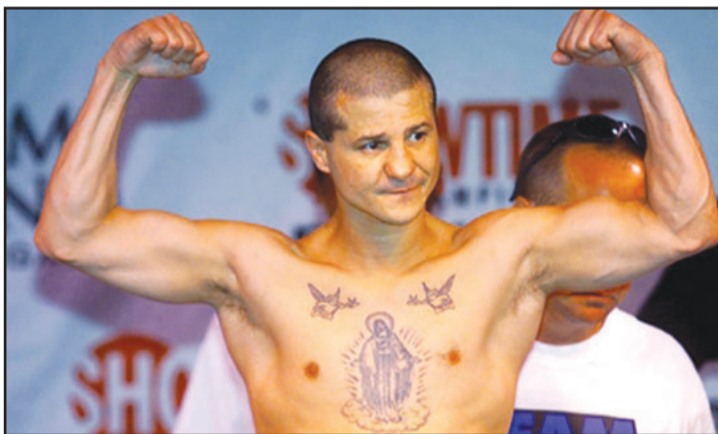
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Johnny Tapia, found dead in home



Johnny Tapia, famous American five-time world boxing champion from Albuquerque, New Mexico, whose turbulent career was marked by cocaine addiction, alcohol, depression and run-ins with the law was found dead in his home on Sunday. He was 45.

Besides his exceptional performance in his sport, he was also known for a troubled life, which was also a source of motivation and inspiration for many people.

Tapia won five championships in three weight classes, winning the WBA bantamweight title, the IBF and WBO junior ban-

tamweight titles and the IBF featherweight belt.

He was regarded as the consummate underdog by his fans. The more trouble he found outside the ring - including several stints in jail - the more they rallied around him.

Tapia was banned from boxing for 3 1/2 years in the early 1990s because of his cocaine addiction. But he knocked out Henry Martinez to win the WBO bantamweight title in 1994, and won four more championships over the next eight years.

He last fought in June 2011, outpointing Mauricio Pastrana in an eight-round decision. He finished with a 59-5-2 record.

Boxer Paul Williams paralyzed in motorcycle crash



Paul Williams, the always exciting, ever-smiling boxer known as "The Punisher," a two-time welterweight boxing world champion, is paralyzed from the waist down after a motorcycle accident in which his spinal cord was 90 percent severed.

Williams, 30, was involved in the crash on Sunday in Marietta, Ga., where he was supposed to attend his brother's wedding that afternoon.

The accident comes just a week after it was announced that Williams would challenge World Boxing Council welterweight world champion Saul

"Canelo" Alvarez, Mexico's rising star, on September 15 in Las Vegas.

The respected Williams

owns a career record of 41-2, with 27 knockouts.

He won his first welterweight title with a decision over Antonio Margarito in July of 2007. In his first defence in February of 2008 he was upset by Carlos Quintana, but rebounded to win their rematch four months later and regain the title.

He is also a former interim junior middleweight world champion, and notched a majority decision in a non-title bout over Sergio Martinez, who went on to win a middleweight crown.

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